

and replacement of ObamaCare so they really can keep their doctor and their hospital. Americans need a simplified Tax Code, one that is fair to everyone. And Americans need the government to remove unnecessary red tape that is preventing economic growth.

We have a plan that can turn their concern into an America that works, an America they need.

RECOGNIZING M.A.R. POR CUBA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a pro-democracy civil society organization called M.A.R. Por Cuba, Mothers and Women Against Repression—M.A.R.

For 20 years, this Miami-based group of women has been advocating for freedom in Cuba, and it continues to be a voice for those being repressed under the brutal Castro regime.

The mission of M.A.R. Por Cuba is to help and advance causes like justice, liberty, and fundamental freedoms for the people of Cuba. This civic organization has been vital in educating the public about the reality of the atrocities committed on the island and has given a voice to those who put their lives on the line for a free Cuba.

I thank the organization's president, Sylvia Iriondo, for her endless commitment and dedication to the causes of liberty and free elections in Cuba. I commend the important work of the women of M.A.R. Por Cuba, who remind us that we must not ignore the brutal repression that takes place only 90 miles from our shores.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to resign my membership on the House Committees on the Budget and Foreign Affairs as a result of my appointment to the Financial Services Committee.

I am honored to be chosen to serve on the Committee on Financial Services. I regret, however, that my membership on this Committee precludes me from serving on the Budget and Foreign Affairs Committees at this time. I have enjoyed serving on these committees and look forward to maintaining an active role on the issues under their jurisdiction.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

LUKE MESSER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 589

Resolved, That following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Messer.

Ms. FOXX. (During the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the conference report to the bill (H.R. 3080) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the conference report.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of May 15, 2014, at page H4065.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3080.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are on the floor passing the Water Resources Reform and Development Act's conference report. I am very proud it is a bipartisan bill. We have worked this out through the Senate, and I think what we have here is a jobs bill, a good

jobs bill that is going to create not just construction jobs, but it is going to keep America competitive by investing in and upgrading our water infrastructure to keep us competitive in the world so that our companies and industries can go out into the world economies, gain market share, and then hire people on the factory floor in America. That is what this bill is all about.

I am proud that it is the most reform-driven water bill in the last 20 years—significant reforms. The name reflects that landmark legislation, Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

We should be proud that this is the most fiscally responsible WRRDA in history. We have deauthorized as much as we authorized in this bill, and there are no earmarks in this bill, Mr. Speaker.

Finally, it does not cede any of Congress' constitutional authority to the executive branch, which is one of the top priorities that I had in this bill, to make sure that Congress keeps its role front and center as we make sure that we are making those investments and upgrading the locks, the dams, the ports, the harbors, and the flood protection all across this country.

I would like to thank the original cosponsors of the bill, Ranking Member RAHALL for his efforts, Water Subcommittee Chairman GIBBS from Ohio, and the Water Subcommittee ranking member, Mr. BISHOP of New York. Thank you all for your hard work.

I would also like to thank my Senate counterparts, the chair of the conference for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator BOXER, and Ranking Member DAVID VITTER.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report. This legislation is a reminder, and unfortunately a stark reminder, that when given a chance to work together in a bipartisan fashion, we can produce results for the American people.

I salute the chairman of our T&I Committee, Mr. SHUSTER from Pennsylvania, for his tireless efforts in this regard, and as well our subcommittee chairman, Mr. GIBBS, and our ranking member on the full committee, Mr. TIM BISHOP.

One of the first acts of our Federal Government was to improve navigation. On August 7, 1789, the first Congress federalized the lighthouses built by the Colonies and appropriated funds for their operation and maintenance.

□ 1275

Today, in the 113th Congress, we keep faith with that fundamental premise of government by advancing legislation that authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve navigation on our inland waterways and our ports. This is an effort which has languished

these past 7 years, and the results of that inactivity are evident.

In 1989, a book by the author John McPhee described the corps as follows:

In addition to all the things the corps actually does and does not do, there are infinite actions it is imagined not to do and infinite actions it is imaginable to be capable of doing because the corps has conceded the almighty role of God.

Indeed, the history of the Corps of Engineers is one of constructing incredible feats of engineering to assist navigation and to combat the ravages of flooding; yet, in recent times, we have fallen into deficit when it comes to this infrastructure.

Aging locks and dams hinder the efficient movement of waterborne commerce, and many of our coastal ports are ill-prepared to take advantage of the expansion of the Panama Canal because their harbors need to be dredged and, in some cases, deepened.

The pending legislation will revitalize our inland waterway system, so that bulk commodities such as coal can be transported more efficiently, and it provides a path forward to spending down the funds currently being held hostage in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Further, it wrests back control to the Congress, to elected officials, decision-making authority over future corps endeavors, rather than ceding this responsibility to the administration, as is currently the case.

One aspect of this legislation, which I am especially pleased to see, is the application of the Buy American provisions for steel and iron that exist in the Federal Surface Transportation Program to projects constructed by the Corps of Engineers.

That provision further defines this legislation, as my good chairman has said, as being about jobs—jobs to construct flood control projects, jobs to expand our harbors, jobs to make improvements to our waterways, and American jobs in the production of iron and steel, which goes into these works.

I, again, commend our full committee chairman, Mr. SHUSTER, for the manner in which he has conducted himself and all members of our committee, both sides of the aisle, as well as our staffs for the transparency and openness and cooperation that has brought this legislation to where it is today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS), the subcommittee chairman on Waters Resources.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for Congress to reengage in the development of the Nation's water resources and play a bigger role in prioritizing projects and activities carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Congress cannot continue to abdicate its constitutional responsibility in determining what projects should go forward and will reassert itself in the face

of an administration that creates one-size-fits-all policy with little or no transparency.

The conference report of H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, is one of the most policy and reform-focused pieces of legislation related to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This is a bipartisan conference report that was developed by working across the aisle to achieve a common goal of investing in America's future.

This conference report contains no earmarks, cuts Federal red tape, streamlines the project delivery process, and strengthens our water transportation networks to promote competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth in jobs now and well into the future.

This conference report is fiscally responsible by more than fully offsetting new project authorizations with deauthorizations of old, inactive projects. This conference report establishes a path forward for enacting a WRRDA bill every 2 years without conceding any congressional authority to the executive branch.

Just because a study is costly, complex, and long does not necessarily mean it will produce a better project. In fact, a large costly project with so many add-ons that it never gets funded is a benefit to no one.

In what used to take the corps 3 to 5 years to study, it has now become the norm for the corps to take 10, 12, or even 15 years to complete a study; and it is no wonder it is taking so much time, since the corps has to review in detail many different alternatives. Too often, we allow Federal agencies, including the Corps of Engineers, to literally study projects to death.

This conference report accelerates the Corps of Engineers study delivery process by limiting studies to 3 years and \$3 million.

In addition, we accelerate the study delivery process by requiring concurrent reviews by the district, division, and headquarters level personnel. Ultimately, the Federal taxpayer is on the hook for these studies for the length of time it takes to carry them out.

The corps reviews far too many alternatives and then sends to Congress a project request that far exceeds in scope and cost what was initially intended.

Too often, non-Federal interests and their contributions are forced to sit on the sidelines while our international competitors race past us. This conference report empowers non-Federal interests and ensures projects will be completed faster and cheaper with local support.

Too often, resources from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are diverted to activities unrelated to keeping U.S. ports competitive in a global marketplace. This conference report creates the incentive to spend the funds for their intended purpose.

One of the most important elements of this legislation is that it ensures the

legislative branch engages in the Water Resources Development Act process at least once every Congress.

By working together, the conference committee has accomplished what many have said could not be done, produce an authorization bill for the Army Corps of Engineers without earmarks.

In order to get these needed reforms in place and to establish the new process for future authorizations, I urge all Members to support the conference report.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP), our distinguished ranking member. Again, I thank him for his tremendous vision and superb knowledge which has brought this conference report to the floor today.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my ranking member for his very kind words, and I rise today in strong support of the conference report for H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

Today is a monumental occasion for our Nation's economy, for the creation of good-paying jobs, and for the health of our natural environment.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL, we present this Chamber with a thoughtful, reasonable bill that renews this Congress' commitment to our Nation's water-related infrastructure.

In that light, I would like to personally thank our chairman, our ranking member, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources, Mr. GIBBS, for the open and inclusive process with which our committee conducted negotiations with the other body on WRRDA and for their leadership in returning our committee to its long-standing traditions of bipartisanship and collaboration.

Today is also a monumental day because, while this bill is about many things, most importantly, it is about job creation, not only those good construction jobs that will come with the authorization of 34 Chief's Reports contained in the bill, but also the jobs that rely on a robust network of large and small ports and inland waterways to move goods throughout the United States.

I am especially pleased that this conference report provides a reasonable path forward to the challenges facing the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. This legislation provides that, within 10 years, 100 percent of the fund proceeds are used for their intended purposes—harbor maintenance—while ensuring that any increase in harbor maintenance does not come at the expense of other critical corps programs.

I am also thankful that this conference report recognizes the critical importance of our Nation's small ports to our regional and local economies in establishing future funding priorities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, today is a monumental day because, at long last, this

WRRDA restores the Federal commitment to our other remaining water infrastructure challenges—our failing sewage and drinking water infrastructure.

This conference report includes legislation that has eluded this Congress for almost three decades, the reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. For decades, this critical and widely popular program has been the leading source of Federal funding to States and communities to address their ongoing water quality challenges.

I am pleased that much of this language is modeled after legislation that I have introduced over the last few Congresses, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their willingness to include this language in the conference report.

I am pleased at the process we have made together on improving water infrastructure in the United States. Again, I want to thank the leadership of our chairman and our ranking member for getting us to this point today, and I also want to thank the staff on both the majority and minority side who worked tirelessly and cooperatively to bring us to this point.

I urge support of the conference report.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA), a member of the committee, a true expert on infrastructure, and a conferee.

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act conference report.

This fiscally responsible bill will create jobs by updating and reauthorizing water infrastructure projects across our Nation. It will make the American economy more globally competitive.

This bill is particularly good for the Great Lakes region, which I represent. For the first time, the Army Corps of Engineers will recognize and manage all Great Lakes ports, including the port of Oswego, as a single, comprehensive system.

This bill takes a long overdue step to ensure that the revenues in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are eventually fully spent on their intended purpose, upgrading our harbors.

By approving this conference report, we can facilitate trade, keep products moving across America, and create jobs in our communities.

I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member RAHALL, and Mr. GIBBS for their hard work on this bill.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Well, we are off to a good start. We are finally recognizing that the Federal Government has a critical interest in our harbors, our ports, our inland waterways, and we are actually going to

begin to spend taxes collected to maintain those things on those things. That is tough in Washington, to tell the truth.

There is a great set-aside for small ports, who were zeroed out because of the Corps of Engineers' lack of funding. It doesn't deal meaningfully, unfortunately, with the Corps of Engineers' \$60 billion backlog of critical projects, including dams and spillways.

It didn't increase the tax or user fee on inland waterway users, even though they wanted it—they were begging for it—and even though Grover Norquist gave it a green light because of intransigence on the Republican side. No new fees, no new taxes for anything, we are just going to start to spend existing tax collections on what they were originally intended for. That is good. That is progress around here.

What is going to happen in 2 months or a month and a half when the highway trust fund goes broke? It needs additional funds, and we are going to have to, at that point, suck it up and vote for a way to pay for our Nation's infrastructure, so we can continue to be a great Nation.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA), another member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of WRRDA and thank Chairman SHUSTER and subcommittee Chairman GIBBS for their leadership.

Critically for my district, WRRDA helps with flood risk management. It increases the roles of the private sector and local communities, and it creates opportunities for public-private partnerships.

WRRDA accommodates the expansion of the Panama Canal so markets far from the coastline, such as Carlisle, Pennsylvania, or Hazleton, can develop the economic engines of inland ports to support increased freight.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), a very valued member of our conference committee, and thank her for her help.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act conference report is a perfect example of how government is supposed to work. I want to thank Senators BOXER and VITTER and Congressmen SHUSTER, GIBBS, and particularly RAHALL and BISHOP for their commitment to produce a comprehensive and bipartisan bill supported by all of the stakeholders.

I also want to thank President Obama for his leadership improving and expediting the process for completing projects at the Corps of Engineers and encouraging Congress to complete the WRRDA conference. I hope this bipartisanship continues as we reauthorize surface transportation programs.

This legislation includes a lot of positive provisions that are going to

help improve, expand, and accelerate Corps of Engineers projects.

These projects will improve the safety of the American public, generate billions of dollars in economic activity, create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, and benefit the Nation's economy as a whole.

We have a group of transportation stakeholders from Florida in the audience today, along with the Jacksonville mayor, Alvin Brown; chamber president, Daniel Davis; port director, Brian Taylor; and Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. They, along with other leaders, worked as a team to make sure that Florida was not left behind.

In closing, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this bill. It is an example of one team, one fight, and what we can do when we work together.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to make a point of clarification regarding section 1036 of the conference report.

Section 1036 states that, when the locally preferred plan is chosen, the cost to the Federal Government shall be no more than the Federal share of the national economic development plan.

I want to clarify the intent of this provision. When the Corps of Engineers carries out a locally preferred plan, the non-Federal sponsor is responsible for all costs above the cost of the national economic development plan.

I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), another member of the committee and another expert on infrastructure and a conferee.

□ 1300

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, for Oklahoma our water navigational system is an essential part of our economy, allowing our local farmers and manufacturers to ship goods all over the world.

This legislation with zero earmarks takes a historical step in supporting our Nation's waterway systems while making critical policy reforms. This bill does exactly what I came to Congress to do. It cuts red tape, reduces burdensome bureaucracy, increases transparency, and, most importantly, strengthens our economy.

Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL have done an incredible job in helping shape this bipartisan legislation. I want to thank them and the rest of my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their hard work.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), a very important member of our conference committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the chairman

and ranking member for bringing forth this report.

Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RAHALL, the subcommittee chair, and the subcommittee ranking member, this really is a very special time. Since last year, conferees and staff have diligently been working to resolve the differences between the House and Senate measures.

It has been 6 years since Congress last passed a water resources bill, and the state of our water infrastructure has continued to decline. I am pleased, however, with this final product, as it provides for maintenance of our ports and waterways as well as critical flood control projects around the country. The bill provides new ways to maintain and protect our water infrastructure, ultimately creating jobs and shoring up our economy.

We have also addressed many important policy reforms in this bill, including reforming the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, encouraging the creation of jobs through targeted water resources infrastructure, and it goes on.

I am confident that the Senate will comply and pass it. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 40 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for a colloquy.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this colloquy is to clarify the intent of section 1051 of the conference report, Interstate Water Agreements and Compacts.

First, can you please confirm that this section does not alter any existing rights or obligations under current law?

My understanding is that this section acknowledges the difficulty that interstate water disputes present. Unfortunately, we have a longstanding dispute in our region that is centered on the operation of two Federal reservoirs located in Georgia—Allatoona Lake and Lake Lanier. Alabama and Florida have claimed for years that the Army was not authorized to provide water to Georgia from those two reservoirs. Having won the court case, Georgia has asked the Army to make some decisions decades overdue.

I want to make it clear that the congressional intent of section 1051 will not be interpreted as sending a message to the Army or to any reviewing court about how they should respond to a request from the State of Georgia.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to engage in a colloquy, but first I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for a colloquy.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, the differing House and Senate language in section 1051 should not be interpreted by the Army or any court as indicating that Georgia's request should be denied or delayed until States reach an agreement.

While the conference report specifically references the ACF and the ACT

basins, the House-passed language does not. Certainly other regions of the country with water concerns should pay close attention to what has happened with this section.

What is your position regarding working out these disputes in future WRRDA legislation?

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield 20 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for a colloquy.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the colloquy.

As I understand section 1051, the Secretary may continue to be responsive to emerging industrial and municipal water supply needs through reallocation of storage consistent with existing laws.

In that regard, an open and transparent rulemaking by the Army with substantive input from those affected seems to represent the best process to support that outcome.

Is that also the chairman's understanding?

Mr. SHUSTER. I will engage in a colloquy, but I first must yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for a colloquy.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo my colleague's comments regarding the ACT and the ACF river basin language. This language does not change current law or interpretation of current law and should not be reviewed by the courts or the corps as changing any current obligations.

We encourage the States to work amongst themselves to solve water use issues in this region. I would be remiss if I did not mention the Savannah River expansion project with its \$174 million net economic impact to this Nation. I hope that the PPA is signed soon.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues, and at this point I will respond and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentlemen from Georgia for raising these issues. The intent of this section is to encourage States to resolve interstate water disputes through interstate water compacts.

Section 1051 in no way alters any existing rights or obligations under law. Further, section 1051 places no limits on the Corps of Engineers' existing statutory authority to manage water projects under its control. This section is in no way intended to express a view on any pending request or to prohibit or interfere with the Corps of Engineers' ongoing efforts to update its water control plans and manuals for the ACF and the ACT basins.

Regarding future WRRDA legislation, interstate water disputes are most properly addressed through interstate water agreements or compacts that take into consideration the concerns of all affected States. I do not believe that WRRDA legislation is the appropriate vehicle for these issues to be adjudicated.

With that, I thank the gentlemen for engaging in the colloquy, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. NAPOLITANO) and thank her for her help on the conference committee as well.

(Ms. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support of WRRDA and sincerely thank Chairmen SHUSTER and GIBBS and Ranking Members RAHALL and BISHOP and all the staff—let's not forget them—for the great bipartisan work.

We thank them for including quality provisions that are important to the Nation, especially to my district, home to Santa Fe Dam and adjacent to Whittier Narrows Dam, the two largest Corps reservoirs in L.A. county.

Generally, it also improves water supply and water capture at the dam. It changes levee vegetation policy not previously taken into account, local characteristics, habitats, or safety. It allows local funding of Corps projects to benefit the region. It improves invasive species management. It prioritizes Harbor Maintenance donor regions, allowing expanded use of funding, which is something I had fought for for many years.

I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks in clarifying that section 3013 of WRRDA will require the corps to perform a new review and revision of levee vegetation policy engineering technical letters.

Thanks to Transportation and Infrastructure for their leadership, and please vote "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify the intent of Section 3013 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Conference Report regarding Vegetation Management policy. In 2009, the Army Corps of Engineers issued new levee vegetation policy through Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 1110-2-571. Most states and local flood control districts, including the State of California Department of Water Resources and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, strongly disagreed with this policy as not taking into account local characteristics and good science.

The 2009 ETL directed states and local agencies to remove all vegetation from their flood control levees. Our local engineers in California and Los Angeles believe this change could be damaging in the following ways:

1. It will lead to weaker levee systems since the roots of vegetation hold the levee material together.
2. It will displace the habitat for endangered and fragile species that use the vegetation.
3. It does not take into account the local geology and characteristics of our levees.
4. It will create massive costs on our flood control agencies that should be using those funds for urgent flood control projects.

Section 3013 of WRRDA will solve this problem by requiring the Secretary of the Army to reissue these regulations regarding vegetation on levees and incorporate regional characteristics, habitat for species of concern, and levee performance.

A minor issue has come to light in recent days since the Conference Report was filed

because Section 3013 requires the Corps to re-issue levee vegetation policy based off of the 2009 ETL 1110–2–571. That 2009 ETL 1110–2–571 was set to expire soon, so the Corps reissued a new Engineering Technical Letter ETL 1110–2–583 that addresses the same levee vegetation policy in the last few weeks. The new ETL is very similar to the 2009 ETL and does not make the changes required by Section 3013 of WRRDA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify for the record the intent of Congress that the Corps' new ETL 1110–2–583 does not satisfy the requirement of Section 3013. Section 3013 requires the Corps to revise its levee vegetation guidelines after performing a comprehensive review taking into account all regions of the United States and their unique habitats and levee structures.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), the great advocate for the Chickamauga Lock in the Tennessee River.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected by the great people of the 3rd District of Tennessee in 2010, I vowed to come to Washington, D.C., to fix broken systems. This bill today—and I thank Chairman SHUSTER—does that. The Inland Waterways Trust Fund is a flawed, broken system.

For those who might not know, all the funds have been going to one lock, starving out the other locks in the entire system. In my beloved city, my home city of Chattanooga, there sits a lock that has been mothballed because this system has been broken.

Finally, this great House has solved this problem. It is a huge step in the right direction, ladies and gentlemen, to make sure that we ultimately fund all of the locks in this system. The fixing of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, which is so flawed and broken by this bill, ultimately will get the needed funds to Chickamauga Lock and other locks and infrastructure in this country.

I am proud to support this bill. I am so proud to be part of a body that after 4 years of tireless work has acknowledged this situation.

Thank you.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for yielding.

As a cosponsor of WRRDA, I rise today in strong support of this conference report. I am pleased with the bipartisan cooperation in and between both the House and the Senate. I think this is a blueprint for how Congress can move forward together on the goals of protecting American jobs and investing in infrastructure.

I have been happy to work with Congressman WHITFIELD on the WAVE4 Act and appreciate that WRRDA includes provisions from that bill. These will allow the U.S. to make important additional investments in our Nation's aging inland waterways, including

locks and dams such as the one in Lockport, Illinois.

The conference report also takes additional steps to control the threat of Asian carp to the Great Lakes. I am pleased that it includes language resolving concerns about a potential dredge spoils site, the Lucas-Berg CDF in Worth, Illinois.

Finally, I am very happy with the strong buy American provisions included in this bill that will help assure that we are creating American jobs.

By passing this conference report today, we will move forward a number of important national priorities: facilitating the movement of goods and freight, investing in infrastructure, creating jobs, and reducing red tape to get projects done. I commend Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member RAHALL, and the many others who worked very hard to get this bill done.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and also a conferee on the water resources bill.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their hard work on this bill.

As a member of the conference committee, I am in strong support of this report.

Really, there are two numbers that come to mind for me in this report, and that is 9,900. That is 9,900 local jobs in West Virginia are supported by West Virginia waterways. The next number is \$1.6 billion. That is how much the waterways industry contributes to our great State.

So this is important that we do this efficiently, well maintained, that we can move our goods and services, particularly our West Virginia coal, down the rivers to power America. I am in strong support of this bill, and I again congratulate the chairman and ranking member for moving this forward.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), a very valued member of our conference committee.

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member RAHALL, and our subcommittee chairman, Mr. GIBBS, and ranking member, Mr. BISHOP, and congratulate them and all of our staff on the work on this conference report.

I rise in support of this bill. I just want to point out, however, that the environmental streamlining provisions in the House- and Senate-passed versions were based on an assumption that a significant number of project delays are due to environmental reviews. I could not disagree more.

I would prefer that the environmental provisions in the conference report were not included, but I believe we have improved them significantly. We

have also ensured that the public will still be able to participate effectively as part of the NEPA process on water projects that have a profound effect on health, safety, and well-being.

I also would like to commend the conference committee on adopting provisions of the State revolving fund for the first time since 1987 that includes innovative financing of water infrastructure projects. As part of both programs, I am proud to say that we will, for the first time, consider an idea that I championed, the use of innovative, green, and low-impact technologies.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 90 seconds to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), the champion of the Keystone pipeline.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and his staff for their hard work and steadfast leadership that got something accomplished that took over 7 years to get to this point. Great job.

This is the way the Constitution was meant for Congress to work, by setting priorities in the light of day rather than an administration funding pet projects behind closed doors.

I am pleased the conferees included as a priority, based on the merits, the Western Sarpy-Clear Creek flood control project allowing it to be finished. With passage, the Western Sarpy-Clear Creek flood project will protect about 443 homes and buildings, 17,000 acres of agriculture and cropland, as well as the major drinking water pipelines and wells for Lincoln and Omaha and the Nebraska Army National Guard's training grounds and portions of Interstate 80 and Highway 6.

□ 1315

My constituents are all too familiar with the economic consequences that occur when flooding happens. But it is this kind of work the American people expect from this body and now is delivered. We need to take care of our infrastructure and look forward in planning for the future.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), a valued member of our WRRDA conference committee as well.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I have been often disappointed with the lack of cooperation in Washington, D.C. So today, I am happy to offer congratulations to the United States House and Senate for this very important bipartisan conference report that when passed and implemented will promote millions of jobs and mean billions of dollars of economic impact for our Nation.

As a proud Member of Congress from south Florida, I am especially excited to see the advancement of the widely supported expansion of Port Everglades and the restoration of our most precious wetland known as the Everglades—the source of drinking water for 7 million people.

Although the bill is not perfect, we are today living up to the desire of the American people that we work together for the good of our country.

With that said, because of the apparent lack of community support for the expansion of the Port of Palm Beach, my vote should not be construed as support for that project. Moving forward, our first priority should be to first do no harm, without degradation of our environment or quality of life. It should be a local community decision as to what uses should dominate the intracoastal waterway in that area and I urge the Port of Palm Beach, Town of Palm Beach, County Commission and other interested stakeholders to come to a joint resolution.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the chairman of the Republican Study Committee.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for yielding, but especially I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for the hard work that he put in to putting together a bill that—and I will just read *The Wall Street Journal* today: “A water bill shows what happens when Congress has to set priorities.” They go on to say: “This process puts House Members in control of spending decisions even as it requires them to choose on the basis of fact and analysis.”

Mr. Speaker, what this bill really does is ushers in some much-needed reforms, if you just look at the reforms to the Corps of Engineers process.

I want to also commend our Senator, DAVID VITTER, who was on that conference committee, for fighting for this, as Chairman SHUSTER did, to put those process reforms in place, because so often we hear that the corps studies issues to death. Frankly, if you look at some of the limitations, the environmental review process, that can bog projects down, this bill contains important reforms that streamline the environmental review process so that we can finally focus on more building and less studying.

Let's actually put our money into building infrastructure, not on studying things to death and ultimately never getting anything done. This bill really ushers in some important reforms on that front.

The critical reforms to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that the Speaker talked about are very important—long, long overdue—things that I think people all across the country will see great benefits from.

I know when we look at some of the things in Louisiana—just the ability to improve flood protection with the Morganza to the Gulf project that finally will be authorized, something that will protect not only homeowners all throughout south Louisiana, but the important energy infrastructure that provides over 20 percent of the Nation's oil and gas. That is going to be an important reform.

Then, of course, if you look at the dredging component—to authorize 50 feet of dredging in the Mississippi

River, as you see the Panama Canal widening. We don't want the United States to be left out of the great economic opportunities that are going to be involved in moving more commerce through the United States and then exporting—exporting more American goods that are produced and made here in America throughout the world.

All of the reforms that I mentioned, and so many others, are critical steps forward in finally getting a WRRDA bill that answers the needs of our Nation.

Again, I thank the chairman for his hard work.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), a real champion of Buy American provisions in everything we do in this Congress.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RAHALL and I would like to also compliment the chair for the great work on getting this bill together—obviously, bipartisan.

For my district this is extremely important. First of all, one of the reforms that came out of this is a “3x3,” which is now going to move across the country so that projects get done—at least the early studies—\$3 million, 3 years done, and question then before the House whether we are going to move forward with that project.

The Sutter project, providing critical protection for Yuba City and that area. Also Notomas—I notice my colleague from Sacramento is here—providing critical protection for part of Sacramento.

The harbors, being able to use the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to deepen the harbors, all critically important.

This is an important bill. When we couple this with the Buy American/Make It In America, we have an opportunity to really move forward the American economy, not only with the infrastructure jobs, but also with the manufacturing that could follow along.

Congratulations to the chair and the ranking members and the subcommittee chair and ranking members.

Mr. SHUSTER. It is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), an important member of the committee and also a conferee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership on this very important piece of legislation.

I think when you saw the committee pass this bill by a voice vote and the overwhelming margin with which it passed this House, that is a direct result of Chairman BILL SHUSTER's leadership. So, thank you, sir.

I obviously rise in support of this WRRDA conference report. As a member of both the farm bill and the WRRDA conference committees, it is really good to see Congress come together in a bipartisan way to pass very important pieces of legislation.

This agreement is going to create infrastructure jobs and provide opportunities that will make our country more competitive.

This WRRDA bill includes my public-private partnership language, which was introduced along with my colleague CHERI BUSTOS as an innovative way to fund water and navigation projects.

This agreement is also going to help us improve navigation along the Mississippi River in times of high and low water. I want to thank my colleague Mr. BILL ENYART for helping to propose that language with me too.

Finally, WRRDA includes policies that are going to help areas like the Metro East Region in southwest Illinois repair and recertify its levee system.

Vote “yes” on this conference report.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. HAHN), another member of our conference committee, and thank her for her help on this bill.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member RAHALL. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you to Chairman SHUSTER for your leadership. What a joy and pleasure it was for me to serve on the conference committee as we worked together to bring forth this amazing water bill that will do so much in this country to create jobs.

I am most happy, of course, with the language in this bill that will finally allow us to fully utilize our Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund so that the ports across this country can be invested in with the taxes that we collect at the port, and that also, because of the leadership of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL, these ports will also be able to use this money for some expanded uses.

I believe with all my heart that when our ports are strong in this country, our country is strong. This bill does more to ensure the investment, the so important investment, in the critical infrastructure in our Nation's ports. My ports in Long Beach and Los Angeles are pleased with this, but really it is for all the ports in this country. Thank you for your leadership.

I think this is an excellent bill. I urge all my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time both sides have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from West Virginia has 5¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. I am prepared to close. Could the gentleman from West Virginia let me know how many speakers you have.

Mr. RAHALL. I have three more.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member RAHALL.

I rise in strong support of this bipartisan WRRDA bill. This is a really good day.

I want to commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for their very, very strong leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Sacramento is the most at-risk metropolitan area for major flooding, as it lies at the confluence of the Sacramento and the American Rivers.

Since the last WRRDA in 2007, a number of key flood protection investments have been carefully studied by the Army Corps of Engineers. One such project that is included in this conference report and holds a Chief's Report is the Notomas levee improvement project.

The area to be protected by the project is home to over 100,000 people, two interstate highways, an international airport, dozens of schools, and hundreds of small businesses. If a levee broke, the damage would be similar to that experienced in New Orleans. This project is critical for Sacramento, and my constituents have waited too long for this day to come.

The conference report also includes language to require the Corps to shift from its one-size-fits-all approach to now consider regional variances to the national levee vegetation policy.

The conference report also includes language that accelerates flood protection projects by allowing Federal crediting.

There is no question that this bipartisan congressional action puts our Nation's flood protection policy on the right path.

I urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you to Chairman SHUSTER and also Mr. RAHALL. You did a wonderful job on this piece of legislation. This is very important to the entire country. I hope the way that you have both worked together, along with subcommittee Chairman GIBBS and Ranking Member TIM BISHOP, is contagious because this would help this institution enormously. Thank you for bringing this bill to the floor.

I was an ironworker before I came to Congress, and I worked in the Port of Boston. So I know firsthand how important the ports and waterways are to our economy in this country.

I have the opportunity to jointly represent the Port of Boston with MIKE CAPUANO, my colleague. The Port of Boston generates \$2.4 billion in economic benefits annually and 34,000 jobs are connected with port activities. With the expected 2015 completion of the Panama Canal expansion project, those numbers will only increase as larger container ships utilize our ports on both coasts.

Mr. Speaker, the Boston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project, recommended and approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and supported by this bill, is very important.

I want to thank my colleagues from Massachusetts for putting up \$135 million to join with the Federal funding on this. It will help us keep pace with our global competitors.

Again, thank you, Mr. RAHALL, and thank you, Mr. SHUSTER, for your hard work.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the committee. It is an excellent example of how we can work together.

I want to rise in support of the conference report for WRRDA.

This report includes language to address the presence of invasive carp in the upper Mississippi River. It contains language to close the Upper Saint Anthony Falls lock and dam in Minneapolis—my hometown.

This would stop the spread of invasive carp which causes harm. Invasive carp decimates the fishing industry, invasive carp wipes out native fish species, and when a 60-pound silver carp jumps out of the water, needless to say, it limits recreational opportunities and causes injury to the people. This is a real picture—fish jumping all out. It is not a good thing.

The language provides for a proactive approach. It protects our vital fishing and recreational industry. It preserves tourism jobs in northern Minnesota. It prevents us from spending government dollars to manage carp if these fish invade northern Minnesota waters.

I want to thank the members of the Minnesota delegation who worked with me on a bipartisan basis to make sure the language was passed. I would also like to thank a staff member Anne Christianson—and you know who you are. You were tireless, you never gave up, and I am very grateful to you.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. How much time do I have remaining, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I assume the chairman has the right to close. Is that right?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. There are a number of highlights that have been mentioned during the course of this debate. The important ones, of course, are reforms of bureaucracy, it accelerates project delivery, and it

streamlines environmental reviews. It is a fiscally responsible bill—as our chairman has shown—and it strengthens our oversight, transparency, and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, I want to commend not only the Members on both sides of the aisle, but the staff on both sides of the aisle: on our side of the aisle particularly, Mr. Jim Zoia, who is our chief of staff on our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; on the minority side, Mr. Ryan Seiger, Mr. Dave Wegner, and Mr. Ward McCarragher for their tremendous work. This has just been an example of how this body ought to operate. We got along very well on both sides of the aisle at the Member level and the staff level. The chairman's transparency, openness, and cooperation were above question. I again want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for his tremendous work and commend him on this legislation. I hope we have the vote we had when we initially passed this bill out of the House, which was 417–3.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to, again, thank my colleagues, my partners across the aisle—Mr. RAHALL and Mr. BISHOP—for working so closely with us on this bill to make it a truly bipartisan bill.

I want to thank some of the key staff on the other side of the aisle who were really instrumental in moving this forward—Jim Zoia, Ward McCarragher, Ryan Seiger, Dave Wegner, and Eddie Shimkus.

Thank you, guys, for all of your efforts. I really appreciate what you put into it, and we really were a team when negotiating with the Senate. I can't thank you enough.

I also thank Mr. GIBBS, the subcommittee chairman, who worked so hard on this bill in working up to it, with the hearings he had not only this year, but last year. I thank him for his hard work.

I want to thank the staff on our side—Chris Bertram, Steve Martinko, Jennifer Hall, John Anderson, Geoff Bowman, Jon Pawlow, Tracy Zea, Clare Doherty, Beth Spivey, Denny Wirtz, Jim Billimoria, Justin Harclerode, Michael Marinaccio, and Joe Price, who worked with Mr. GIBBS.

All of them put in countless hours to make sure that this bill came together, and I can't thank them enough for all of their efforts.

To my colleagues, I thank you for the big vote that gave us the strength to go to conference with the Senate and to come back with a bill that is reform driven, that focuses on reform. There are no earmarks in it. It is fiscally responsible.

It does not yield Congress' constitutional authority to the executive branch, and it is going to strengthen our infrastructure, so that we can remain competitive. It is about economic growth. It is about jobs.

Congress has not enacted a WRRDA bill since 2007, but we can't afford to delay without improving our water system. It is becoming obsolete every day, and it becomes less competitive. That is what this bill, as I said, is all about.

It is about making America competitive so our businesses can be competitive, and it saves American taxpayers money when they are buying products in the stores in our communities.

Again, this is about economic growth, and this is about jobs. I encourage all Members to support the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report to H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. I support this conference report because it makes smart investments in water infrastructure that are critical to the nation's economic future and the economy of my home state of Texas.

I thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for their work in shepherding this legislation to this point, which is just one step away from presenting the bill to the President for signature.

Mr. Speaker, the last water resources bill signed into law was six years ago, making this one long overdue.

We need to keep America's economic recovery moving forward by ensuring that when American workers make products, we can efficiently move them through our ports to overseas markets.

American international trade accounts for more than one quarter of Gross Domestic Product. More than 99 percent of our overseas trade moves through America's seaports.

Cargo moving through our seaports is responsible for more than 13 million American jobs and generates in excess of \$200 billion annually in federal, state, and local tax revenues.

Water infrastructure is critical to the Port of Houston, one of the major economic engines not only for my congressional district but also the nation.

The Port of Houston is home to more than 100 steamship lines offering services that link Houston with 1,053 ports in 203 countries. It is also home to a \$15 billion petrochemical complex, the largest in the nation and second largest worldwide.

For America to remain on top the global economy, we need to be competitive internationally so that global consumers increasingly purchase American-made goods.

This bill takes an important first step in addressing an issue of key concern to not only the Port of Houston and Galveston in Texas, but to all of our nations' ports, the collection and use of the federal Harbor Maintenance Tax.

Specifically, the Conference Report provides for increased expenditures from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) for harbor maintenance activities each year.

Under the agreement, the target expenditure for Fiscal Year 2015 is 67 percent of the funds collected in 2014, with the rate rising to 100 percent of the funds collected in 2024.

The conference report also measure requires the Army Corps of Engineers to assess the operation and maintenance needs of U.S. harbors and, to the maximum extent practicable, to prioritize future trust fund spending on an equitable allocation among all harbor types.

The Conference Report also requires that any increase in annual Corps project operation and maintenance expenditures, which come from the HMTF, be accompanied by an equal increase in total appropriations provided for the corps' civil works program.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased that the Conference Report retains the provision inserted by an amendment I offered and which was accepted during the initial House consideration of this legislation.

That Jackson Lee amendment provides that in making recommendations pursuant to Section 118 of the Act, the Secretary shall consult with key stakeholders, including State, county, and city governments, and, where applicable, State and local water districts, and in the case of recommendations concerning projects that substantially affect underrepresented communities the Secretary shall also consult with historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions.

I also am pleased that the Conference Report retains the provision permitting non-federal entities to invest in their harbor maintenance and step in when the Army Corps of Engineers cannot.

This legislative provision particularly benefits ports like the Port of Houston which have invested substantial amounts of their own funds to complete critical infrastructure in order to provide for safe navigation of larger vessels, and to assure its terminals remain competitive in the world market.

I believe the WRRDA bill would be even better if an amendment I offered directing the Secretary of the Army to encourage the participation of minority and women-owned businesses in Corps projects and for GAO to submit a report to Congress within 2 years on the participation of minority- and women-owned businesses in such projects.

Mr. Speaker, America's public ports and their private sector partners plan to invest more than \$46 billion in seaport infrastructure in the next five years.

Maintaining America's link to the global marketplace by creating and maintaining modern and efficient seaport and waterway infrastructure will provide significant benefits to our nation's economic vitality, job growth, and international competitiveness, as well as create sizable tax revenues from cargo and trade activities.

For these reasons, I support the Conference Report and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. The provisions included in this conference report will enhance our water infrastructure and will help communities throughout our Nation.

When the House considered its version of this bill last year, it adopted my amendment to ensure that the Army Corps of Engineers

could not carry out a new purpose under this bill without the consent of Congress. This amendment was offered in response to the Senate version's provision that allowed the Army Corps of Engineers to change dam operations irrespective of congressionally authorized purposes.

The conference report's Section 1046 before us today contains my provision to ensure that the Army Corps of Engineers cannot change dam operations without congressional consent. The provision simply authorizes a study to update and revise the 1992 report on Authorized and Operating Purposes of Corps of Engineers Reservoirs. Revisions to this report will correct erroneous entries, but it is important to acknowledge that a revision of a report does not amount to a de facto endorsement by Congress of a change to project operations. This is a fundamental requirement that must be honored for the entire federal power project and not just limited to the Army Corps of Engineers.

I would also note that Section 1046 requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of the revision to the 1992 report to ensure consistency with existing law and regulations. This provision applies to the applicable regulations that are notice and comment type of regulations that require due process under the Administrative Procedures Act and enacted pursuant to a Congressional mandate. Internal policy pronouncements that are termed "engineers regulations" can be changed by the Army Corps of Engineers without notice to stakeholders. While engineers regulations are fundamentally important to the Army Corps of Engineers operations, they are predominantly policy statements that do not have the same authority as regulations adopted at the direction of Congress. The Government Accountability Review should bear this distinction in mind.

In conclusion, a review of an Army Corps of Engineers dam does not amount to a new authorization. Congress retains the authority and responsibility to adjust project purposes. A recommendation for a change, even if suggested by a report will still require action by the Congress.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters with the Committee on Rules:

COMMITTEE ON RULES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: I am writing regarding section 7004 of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Development Act of 2013. The provisions contained in section 7004 were in neither the House bill nor the Senate amendment. As you know, the provisions in that section constitute rules of the House of Representatives and Senate, respectively, and as such, fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules.

Because of your willingness to actively consult with my committee regarding this matter, I do not object to the inclusion of these provisions in the conference report. By agreeing to the inclusion of the section, the Rules Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over those provisions now or in the future. In addition, the Committee on Rules expects that it would receive a referral on any measure or matter addressing these provisions in the future.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the conference report on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 15, 2014.

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,

Chairman, Committee on Rules, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding section 7004 of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

I acknowledge that by agreeing to the inclusion of this section, the Committee on Rules does not waive its jurisdiction over this provision now or in the future.

I will include our letters on H.R. 3080 in the Congressional Record during consideration of the conference report on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,

Chairman.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

Not only will this bill create badly-needed jobs, as co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, I'm especially pleased that this bill establishes the Great Lakes Navigation System.

The Great Lakes comprise nearly 20 percent of the world's fresh water and are a precious resource. They're responsible for nearly 130,000 jobs in the United States, and the economic activity they generate creates over \$18 billion in annual revenue; maintaining the Great Lakes truly maintains our Nation.

By joining ports and waterways throughout the Great Lakes and establishing the Great Lakes Navigation System, we will ensure that there is adequate funding to keep our infrastructure maintained and strong.

In fact, in my own district, we started dredging the Port of Rochester last week, and by establishing the Great Lakes Navigation System, funding to maintain the port and dredge in the future will be consistent and reliable through the Harbor Maintenance Fund.

With this bill, we make certain that the 145 million tons of commodities that are carried through the Great Lakes Navigation System every year can be transported efficiently and safely, and I commend everyone who worked on this tremendous achievement.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the principles in the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA, Title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) provide a long-established structure for the budgetary treatment of federal credit programs. Unlike cash accounting, FCRA prescribes accounting principles that consider costs over the life of a loan or loan guarantee rather than just the cash flows in any given year. Unless there is a clear statutory exemption, the federal government's credit programs, e.g. the Federal Housing Administration's single-family mortgage program and the Department of Education's student loan programs, are budgeted for using FCRA methodology.

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (Subtitle C of Title V) is a

new federal credit program within the scope of FCRA. This new federal credit program and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act on which it is modeled are both subject by statute to FCRA.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the Conference Report for H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

America is blessed with an extensive network of natural harbors and rivers. In Eastern Washington, the Columbia River and its tributaries are central to the region's culture and economy. Since the early 20th century, dams have been built across the Columbia and Snake River systems to provide navigation, irrigation, affordable and renewable hydropower, and flood control. Every year, agricultural products travel through the Columbia and Snake River systems from Eastern Washington and the Pacific Northwest to every corner of America and around the world. As such, it is crucial that Congress continues to strengthen and maintain the many ports, channels, locks, dams, and other infrastructure that support maritime trade and provide flood protection for our homes and businesses.

The Conference Report for H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), ensures the continued flow of domestic and international commerce, while maintaining a strong transportation system. Additionally, through WRRDA, Congress has the opportunity to make much needed policy reforms including strengthening oversight, cutting federal red tape, and opening the door to new innovations in infrastructure development. This legislation also significantly strengthens our transportation network—creating jobs and increasing commerce throughout the Pacific Northwest and across our nation.

Important to Eastern Washington, WRRDA maximizes the ability of non-federal interests, like ports, to contribute funds to move authorized studies and projects forward. In addition, by consolidating studies, WRRDA will accelerate project delivery and promote growth. Through working with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am pleased that the City of Asotin also received language that will transfer land owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the City and allow for development of the area.

This pro-jobs legislation encourages growth, increases trade, and keeps Eastern Washington economically competitive. I urge all of my colleagues to support Conference Report for H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as the only member of Congress from Michigan appointed to the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) conference committee, my role was to be a steadfast advocate for the Great Lakes and I am pleased that our final bill includes provisions that will significantly benefit these national natural treasures.

For the first time, the Great Lakes will be designated as a single comprehensive navigation system, allowing the Great Lakes to present a unified front when competing against coastal regions for federal funding and resources. The designation will also increase equity for related projects within the Lakes themselves.

It also, for the first time, designates funds from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund spe-

cifically for projects' within the Great Lakes and better allocates funds collected for harbor maintenance across the country so that by 2025, 100 percent of the funds collected from users of our ports for this purpose are actually used to improve and maintain America's maritime infrastructure essential to our economy.

Finally the legislation calls on the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service as well as the U.S. Geological Survey to work with state and local officials to slow the spread of Asian carp, which we all know pose a huge threat to the Great Lakes' ecosystem.

I have lived my entire life along the shores of the Great Lakes and I understand the threat these invaders pose not only to the multi-billion dollar recreation and tourism industries, but also to our very way of life.

I am so very pleased that my fellow conferees agreed that the Great Lakes are a national treasure worthy of the protections included in this bill. It is an important recognition of the Lakes and their contribution to the national economy, and it takes the steps necessary to ensure they are maintained now and for generations to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 3080.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 4, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 220]

YEAS—412

Aderholt	Capito	Davis, Rodney
Amodei	Capps	DeFazio
Bachmann	Capuano	DeGette
Bachus	Cárdenas	Delaney
Barber	Carney	DeLauro
Barletta	Carson (IN)	DeBene
Barr	Carter	Denham
Barrow (GA)	Cartwright	Dent
Barton	Cassidy	DeSantis
Bass	Castor (FL)	DesJarlais
Beatty	Castro (TX)	Diaz-Balart
Becerra	Chabot	Dingell
Benishek	Chaffetz	Doggett
Bentivolio	Chu	Duckworth
Bera (CA)	Cicilline	Duffy
Bilirakis	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Duncan (TN)
Bishop (NY)	Clyburn	Edwards
Bishop (UT)	Coble	Ellison
Black	Coffman	Ellmers
Blackburn	Cohen	Engel
Blumenauer	Collins (GA)	Enyart
Bonamici	Collins (NY)	Eshoo
Boustany	Conaway	Esty
Brady (TX)	Connolly	Farenthold
Braley (IA)	Conyers	Farr
Bridenstine	Cook	Fattah
Brooks (AL)	Cooper	Fincher
Brooks (IN)	Costa	Fitzpatrick
Brown (FL)	Cotton	Fleischmann
Brownley (CA)	Courtney	Fleming
Buchanan	Cramer	Flores
Bucshon	Crawford	Forbes
Burgess	Crenshaw	Fortenberry
Bustos	Crowley	Foster
Butterfield	Cuellar	Fox
Byrne	Culberson	Frankel (FL)
Calvert	Cummings	Franks (AZ)
Camp	Daines	Frelinghuysen
Campbell	Davis (CA)	Fudge
Cantor	Davis, Danny	Gabbard

Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer

Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney

Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Neal
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—4

Amash
Gohmert

Huelskamp
Salmon

NOT VOTING—15

Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Cole

Deutch
Doyle
Johnson (GA)
Labrador
Marchant

McCollum
Miller, Gary
Rush
Schwartz
Thompson (MS)

□ 1401

Mr. HUELSKAMP changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. BARR changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to an oversight, I missed the vote on Conference Report on H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act on May 20th, 2014. I had intended to vote “aye” on rollcall vote 220, Agreeing to the Conference Report on H.R. 3080.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3717

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself from H.R. 3717.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4660, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4435, HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 585 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 585

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill

for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-44 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. After disposition of the further amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules, the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.